

Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached sheets of drawings include Figs. 1-5. One sheet includes Fig. 2 and new Fig. 5, which is a side view of Fig. 2 with the device secured to a base, illustrated schematically at 30. The remaining sheets are alternative copies of Figs. 1 and 3-4 – none of which have been amended.

Attachment: Replacement Sheets

Remarks

Reconsideration of the above-identified application in view of the present amendment is respectfully requested. By the present amendment, claims 1 and 13 have been amended. New claims 15-17 have been added.

Drawings

The Examiner objected to the drawings under 37 C.F.R. §1.83(a) for failing to show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. In particular, the drawings were objected to for failing to illustrate a “base”, “at least one engagement element [of the inner sleeve]”, “at least one engagement element on the outer sleeve” and the “plurality of engagement elements”.

New Fig. 5 has been added to schematically illustrate a base 30, to which the device 100 is secured. The specification has been amended accordingly to reflect the additional drawing. Thus, it is believed that the objection regarding the base has been overcome.

Regarding the at least one engagement elements, it is respectfully submitted that the current figures illustrate these features. The at least one engagement element of the inner sleeve recited in lines 11-12 of claim 7 is illustrated at element 14 in Figs. 1 and 4 and described as guide recesses 14 formed on the outer wall of the inner sleeve 11 (page 3, lines 24-26). The at least one engagement element of the outer sleeve recited in lines 12-13 of claim 7 is illustrated at element 20 in Fig. 4 and described as guide projections 20 formed on the inner wall of the outer sleeve 10 (page 4, lines 22-24). Since it is believed that these engagement elements are

illustrated in the figures it is respectfully submitted that the objection of the recitation of at least one engagement element of the inner and outer sleeves be withdrawn.

Regarding the plurality of engagement elements recited in claim 8, it is respectfully submitted that the current figures illustrate these features. A plurality of engagement elements 14 of the inner sleeve 11 and the plurality of engagement elements 20 of the outer sleeve recited are both illustrated in Fig. 4. Since it is believed that these engagement elements are illustrated in the figures it is respectfully submitted that the objection of the recitation of a plurality of engagement elements be withdrawn.

Abstract/Specification

The Examiner objected to the amendments to the Abstract and Specification made by the Applicants in the response filed August 23, 2007. In particular, the Examiner asserts that the amendments were non-compliant for failing to make amendments to the Abstract on separate sheets. The present amendment cures this deficiency by resubmitting the amendments on separate sheets and thus it is believed that the objection has been overcome.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112

Claim 13 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. In particular, the recitation of the limitation "configured in accordance with the second connecting unit" was deemed unclear. This limitation has been removed and thus it is believed that the rejection has been overcome.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103

The Examiner rejected claims 7-14 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,264,393 to Krause (hereafter "Krause"). It is respectfully submitted that as amended claim 7 patentably defines over Krause and is therefore allowable.

Amended claim 7 recites a base having a carrier part for holding cable. An outer sleeve has a guide cavity having a cross section that is longer in the longitudinal direction than in the transverse direction. The longitudinal and transverse directions are orthogonal to one another. The inner sleeve is inserted into the outer sleeve along the transverse direction of the outer sleeve. The inner sleeve is displaceable relative to the outer sleeve in the longitudinal direction when the inner sleeve is engaged with the outer sleeve.

Krause does not teach this structure. Kraus teaches a connecting unit 1 that connects a support 2 – constituting a body part of a motor vehicle – and a door/wall face of a motor vehicle (Col. 1, lines 43-45). The Office Action asserts that the support 2 constitutes a carrier part and that the support 2 is presumed to be inherently capable of holding cable or fastening cable (Office Action page 6). The support 2, however, is incapable of performing these functions. The connecting unit 1 is connected directly to the support 2 and the door of the vehicle. There is no structure whatsoever that allows the support 2 in Kraus to fasten or hold cable. Thus, Kraus does not teach a base having a carrier part for holding cable.

Furthermore, when the connection element 1 in Kraus is changed from the pre-installing position (Fig. 2) to the final installation position (Figs. 3-4) excellent

tolerance compensation and a good sealing effect is achieved in a longitudinal direction of the connection unit 1 (Col. 5, lines 3-11). This longitudinal direction is along the insertion direction of the first connecting part 3 into the casing 15.

Krause, however, does not teach or suggest that the first connecting part 3 is movable relative to the casing 15 in a direction orthogonal to the insertion direction. It appears from Fig. 4 that the locking elements 10 and counter stops 18 prevent such relative movement. Thus, Krause does not teach an inner sleeve that is displaceable relative to an outer sleeve in the longitudinal direction when the inner sleeve is engaged with the outer sleeve as recited in amended claim 7. Since Kraus does not teach the subject matter of amended claim 7, it is respectfully submitted that as amended claim 7 patentably defines over Krause and is therefore allowable.

Claims 8-14 depend from claim 7 and are allowable for at least the same reasons claim 7 is allowable, and for the specific limitations recited therein.

New Claims

Claim 15 recites that the carrier part comprises a U-shaped profile having an open end and a closed end for receiving the cable. The base covers the closed end to hold the cable. It is respectfully submitted that the art of record does not teach this structure and therefore claim 15 is allowable.

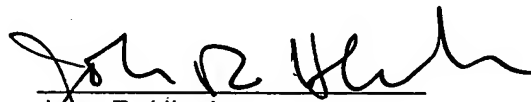
Claim 16 recites that the carrier part comprises an elongated cable channel for receiving cable. The Office Action asserts that element 2, a vehicle body, of Kraus, is a carrier part. The vehicle body 2, however, is not an elongated cable channel and cannot receive cable. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that Kraus does not teach the subject matter of claim 16 and therefore claim 16 is allowable.

Claim 17 recites that the carrier part defines a cable channel for receiving a cable or tube. As noted, Kraus does not teach a carrier part capable of receiving cable. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that Kraus does not teach the subject matter of claim 17 and therefore claim 17 is allowable.

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance and allowance is respectfully requested.

Please charge any deficiency or credit any overpayment in the fees for this amendment to our Deposit Account No. 20-0090.

Respectfully submitted,



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